

March 19, 2007

Honorable Chairman Dingell and Chairman Boucher:

Thank you Chairmen for your efforts to address the role of the United States in mitigating the threats and impacts posed by global climate change. We appreciate the invitation to contribute to the dialogue the committee has initiated on federal climate legislation.

Since 1993, ICLEI USA-Local Governments for Sustainability, a bipartisan nonprofit, has worked with local governments across the country to address global warming. These cities, counties and towns have advanced greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reductions, driven innovation, saved money and energy and made their communities cleaner, better places to live. A quick summary of these accomplishments:

- ICLEI-USA's membership represents 66 million people, more than 22% of the nation's population.
- Our members report achieving GHG emissions reductions of 23 million tons annually.
- They also realize annual economic savings of approximately \$600 million.

ICLEI USA's premier government tool is called Cities for Climate Protection (CCP). In short, it is based on Five Milestones: conduct a baseline emissions inventory and forecast; adopt an emissions reduction target; develop a local Climate Action Plan; implement policies and measures; and monitor and verify results. The voluntary, performance-based and accountability mechanisms of CCP could be applied on a broader scale.

Local governments' successful carbon mitigation measures can provide a model and inspiration for federal efforts. To that end, ICLEI-U.S.A. believes that comprehensive climate legislation should include:

- Requirements that all local governments be engaged to swiftly establish climate action plans to advance state and federal reduction targets.
- Establish a loan program that offers low to no interest loans to local governments to assist with initial capital necessary to implement the first wave of climate action; these loans can be repaid through the attendant energy savings.
- Mechanisms that harmonize and standardize GHG reduction measurements (at the local, state and federal levels) to ensure expeditious and accurate analysis.
- Formalize a role for local government to ensure that policies represent, support and empower local governments.
- Overall goal of reducing emissions 80 percent by 2050.

With 80 percent of Americans now living in cities and that number expected to rise still, cities and other local governments are crucial to any efforts to curtail energy use and global warming pollution. In your upcoming hearings and consideration of



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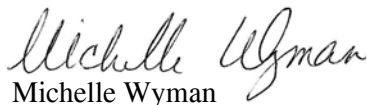
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legislation, we encourage you to seek input from local government leaders and consider the ways in which they, along with ICLEI, can be partners in this effort.

Together, we can transform the potential problems associated with global warming into positive, innovative solutions.

Thank you again Chairmen for the opportunity to contribute to this important dialogue. We look forward to future opportunities to engage as we all work to address the challenges posed by global warming.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Michelle Wyman".

Michelle Wyman  
Executive Director  
ICLEI U.S.A.